

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4588

To amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include workers who were employed on Amchitka Island, Alaska, in the construction and maintenance of deep shafts for underground nuclear testing and various other military purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act to include workers who were employed on Amchitka Island, Alaska, in the construction and maintenance of deep shafts for underground nuclear testing and various other military purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Amchitka Is-
5 land Workers’ Relief Amendments of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

1 (1) radiation emitted during the Federal Gov-
2 ernment’s underground testing program on Am-
3 chitka Island, Alaska, and from its construction of
4 radar installations on such Island, exposed Amchitka
5 Island workers to radiation that is presumed to have
6 generated an excess of cancers and other radiation-
7 related illnesses;

8 (2) the health of Amchitka Island workers, who
9 were exposed to radiation from the tests on such Is-
10 land and during the construction of radar installa-
11 tions on such Island, was put at risk to serve the na-
12 tional security interests of the United States; and

13 (3) the United States should recognize and as-
14 sume responsibility for the harm done to Amchitka
15 Island workers.

16 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE RADIATION EXPOSURE COM-**
17 **PENSATION ACT.**

18 (a) AMCHITKA ISLAND WORKERS CLAIMS.—The Ra-
19 diation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210
20 note) is amended by inserting after section 5 the following:

21 **“SEC. 5A. CLAIMS RELATING TO AMCHITKA ISLAND WORK-**
22 **ERS.**

23 “(a) Eligibility Criteria.—An individual shall receive
24 compensation for a claim made under this Act if such
25 individual—

1 “(1)(A) was employed on Amchitka Island,
2 Alaska, for the construction, testing, maintenance,
3 support, or clean-up pertaining to the preparation
4 for, and detonation of, the Longshot, Milrow, and
5 Cannikin Nuclear detonations and on any post deto-
6 nation construction, clean-up, testing, or mainte-
7 nance; or

8 “(B) was employed on Amchitka Island, Alaska,
9 during the construction of, or the maintenance, re-
10 pair, monitoring, testing, support, or operation of,
11 the Defense Early Warning, White Alice, Over the
12 Horizon, “back scatter”, or any other military radar
13 installation located on Amchitka Island, Alaska; and

14 “(2) submits written medical documentation
15 that the individual, after employment on Amchitka
16 Island, Alaska, developed a radiological disease.

17 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of subsection (a),
18 the term ‘radiological disease’ includes—

19 “(1) leukemia (other than chronic lymphocytic
20 leukemia);

21 “(2) multiple myeloma;

22 “(3) lymphomas (other than Hodgkin’s dis-
23 ease);

24 “(4) primary cancer of the thyroid, female
25 breast, esophagus, stomach, pharynx, small intes-

1 tines, pancreas, bile ducts, gall bladder, or liver (ex-
2 cept if cirrhosis or hepatitis B is indicated); and

3 “(5) nonmalignant respiratory disease such as
4 fibrosis of the lung, pulmonary fibrosis,
5 corpulmonale related to fibrosis of the lung, silicosis,
6 or pneumoconiosis.”.

7 (b) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—Section 6(c)(2)(A) of the
8 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 2210
9 note) is amended by striking “or” at the end of clause
10 (i), by striking the period at the end of clause (ii) and
11 inserting “, or”, and by adding after clause (ii) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(iii) exposure to radiation from employ-
14 ment on Amchitka Island, Alaska, as described
15 in section 5A(a)(1).”.

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